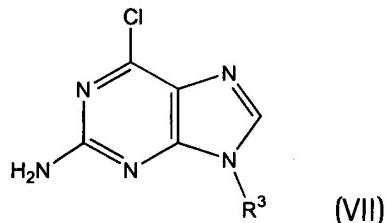
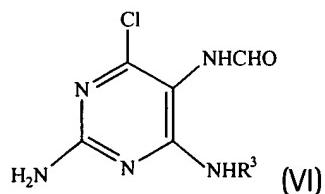


Claim 9 (amended four times) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (VII)

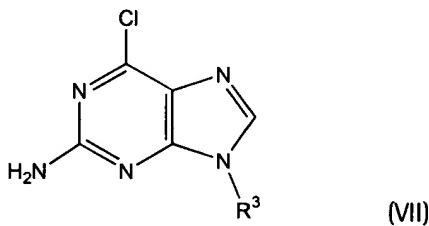


wherein  $\text{R}^3$  is hydrogen; hydroxyl or a protected hydroxyl; a  $\text{C}_{3-7}$  carbocyclic group optionally substituted with  $\text{C}_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $\text{C}_{1-4}$ alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, or halogen; [an acyclic group] a  $\text{C}_{2-8}$  hydrocarbyl group, wherein carbon atoms may be substituted by one or more [heteroatoms] N, O or S atoms, and wherein such [acyclic]  $\text{C}_{2-8}$  hydrocarbyl group may be optionally substituted with  $\text{C}_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $\text{C}_{1-4}$ alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, or halogen; or a  $\text{C}_{4-7}$  heterocyclic group, wherein at least one carbon atom is replaced by a N, O, or S atom and wherein such  $\text{C}_{4-7}$  heterocyclic group may be optionally substituted with  $\text{C}_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $\text{C}_{1-4}$ alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, or halogen; provided that such groups are not attached by a glycosidic bond, comprising reacting a compound of formula (VI)

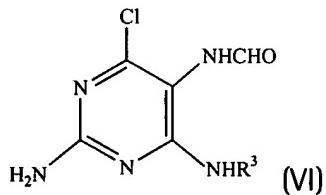


wherein  $\text{R}^3$  is as defined above, with a trialkylorthoformate in the presence of an aqueous acid.

18. (Twice Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (VII)



wherein R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen; hydroxyl or a protected hydroxyl; a C<sub>3-7</sub> carbocyclic group optionally substituted with C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, or halogen; [an acyclic group] a C<sub>2-8</sub> hydrocarbyl group, wherein carbon atoms may be substituted by one or more [heteroatoms] N, O or S atoms, and wherein such [acyclic] C<sub>2-8</sub> hydrocarbyl group may be optionally substituted with C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, or halogen; or a C<sub>4-7</sub> heterocyclic group, wherein at least one carbon atom is replaced by a N, O, or S atom and wherein such C<sub>4-7</sub> heterocyclic group may be optionally substituted with C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, or halogen; provided that such groups are not attached by a glycosidic bond, comprising reacting a compound of formula (VI)



wherein R<sup>3</sup> is as defined above, with a trialkylorthoformate in the presence of an aqueous acid.

In Claim 22, line 4, please delete "heteroatoms" and substitute --N, O, or S atoms--therefor.